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## Letter dated 4 September 2009 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to paragraph 31 of Security Council resolution 1880 (2009) dated 30 July 2009 on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, I have the honour to provide an update on the preparation of the provisional electoral list for the Ivorian presidential election, which is scheduled to take place on 29 November 2009. As you may recall, the deadline for the publication of the provisional electoral list was 29 August 2009. The Independent Electoral Commission, which is responsible for preparing that list with support from other national technical bodies, such as the National Statistics Institute and the National Commission for the Supervision of Identification (CNSI), as well as a contracted international private company from France, called Sagem, has missed this important deadline.

In a statement issued on 19 August 2009, the Independent Electoral Commission had expressed concern about delays in key steps required to prepare the provisional electoral list. In this regard, the Independent Electoral Commission indicated that CNSI had not designated any representatives to the committees established to arbitrate identification and voter registration data; that the integrated command centre had not provided security for all of the coordination centres where the data is processed; and that the Government had yet to disburse the remaining funds required for the electoral process. Subsequently, the office of the Prime Minister indicated that there would be an approximate two-week delay in publishing the provisional electoral list.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) reported that, on 25 August 2009, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had adopted legal texts relevant to the electoral process. These included decree 2009/270, which regularizes the duration of the concluded voter registration operations, carried out between 15 September 2008 and 30 June 2009, by amending an earlier decree that had set 30 October 2008 as the deadline for completing the voter registration process; ordinance 2009/268, which compresses the time for displaying the provisional electoral list from three months to 30 days prior to the elections; and ordinance 2009/269, which compresses the time for completing the distribution of voter cards from two weeks to eight days prior to the elections.

On 1 September 2009, UNOCI reported that the technical committees composed of the Independent Electoral Commission and CNSI representatives had started arbitrating identification and voter registration data in the coordination centres on 31 August 2009. As of 2 September, 40 of the 70 coordination centres



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had completed the processing of voter registration data. Operations are ongoing in the remaining 30 centres. UNOCI is working with other international partners to help the Independent Electoral Commission explore ways to resolve funding issues, with a view to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of these data processing centres.

Furthermore, UNOCI is working with the national authorities to identify and address the obstacles to the deployment of the mixed brigades that are charged with the responsibility to provide security to the coordination centres and the wider electoral process. We will continue to monitor the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire closely and keep the Security Council informed of significant developments. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon